

## REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Throughout the year the Commission reviews, conducts site field inspections and provides comments and recommendations on Alton Wetlands Permit applications to the NH Wetlands Bureau. In 2006 we reviewed a total of 100 applications. Applications included 29 Standard, 21 Minimum Impact Expedited and 50 Permit By Notification. A number of applicants also came before the Commission to present and discuss project proposals and impacts. The Commission investigated 4 complaints regarding wetlands violations and filed formal complaints with NH Department of Environmental Services.

The Commission continues to work closely with the Planning Board regarding environmental impacts of proposed projects. Commissioners received 29 requests from the Planning Board and Zoning Board to review for proposed subdivisions, site plans and variances and provided written comments and recommendations.

The Commission provides annual funding for Lay Lake Monitoring of Lake Winnepesaukee, Half Moon Lake and the Merrymeeting River. This monitoring provides data to assess water quality of these important water bodies. Water quality reports for the lakes are available in Commission files.

The Commission is responsible for annually monitoring and reporting on 10 conservation easements in Alton totaling 258 acres and managing town-owned conservation land totaling 538 acres. In the Gilman Pond Conservation area, David Lawrence and Tom Hoopes checked boundaries and worked on laying out a public pedestrian trail along the north side of the pond. David Lawrence, Gene Young and Justine Gengras also monitored the other conservation easements. David Lawrence and Gene Young checked Town Forest boundaries.

This year the Commission received one new conservation easement, donated to the Town of Alton by NSTS Development. This small easement is part of the expansion of the Timbers at Rum Point subdivision and increases the amount of protected open space in the subdivision.

The Commission thanks the Highway Department for repairing the parking lot entrance that washed out during this year's heavy rains and installing a culvert. We would like to express our special thanks and appreciation to Code Enforcement clerk Jennifer Fortin for taking our minutes, maintaining our records, tracking the Commission's activity on 129 environmental cases and providing coordination with the Planning Board.

We invite anyone interested in serving on the Commission to attend our meetings. We currently have one regular and alternate positions available.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Bagley, Co-chairman

Justine Gengras, Co-chairman

Roger Burgess , Thomas Hoopes, David Lawrence, Eugene Young